MED. INTEL.

PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF
WORKINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1938

BY

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Workington,
February, 1939.

THE WORKINGTON STAR LTD., OXFORD STREET.

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MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. C. THOMPSON (Chairman).

Mr. J. A. Cape.	Mr. J. Poole.
,, P. Dalton.	,, W. G. Taylor.
,, H. R. Clucas.	,, S. Walker.
,, E. Davies.	* ,, G. S. Wright.
,, W. A. Palmer.	§ ,, A. V. Cattrell.

* Retired in November.

§ Appointed in November.

Mr. Thomas Jackson Clerk to the Authority.

R. W. Macpherson, m.d., d.p.h. ... Port Medical Officer.

W. Eadie, m.d. Deputy Port Medical Officer.

R. James, m.r.s.i. Sanitary Inspector.

K. Ketley, a.r.s.i. Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Town Hall,
Workington,
February, 1939.

Annual Report for the Year 1938, of the Medical Officer of Health for the Workington Port Health Authority.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1938.

The Report as set forth below has been prepared on the lines indicated in Memorandum 204/S.A. of the Ministry of Health, dated February, 1937.

1.—*Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the Year.*

TABLE A.

		NUMBER	TONNAGE	No Inspected. By Medical Officer of Health	No Inspected. By Sanit'ry Inspector	No. Reported to be Defective.	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	No. of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
Foreign	Steamers ...	176	148823	61	172	14	9	1
	Motor ...	16	3949	4	11	...	...	...
	Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign		192	152772	65	183	14	9	1
Coast-wise	Steamers ...	455	83376	...	203	34	34	...
	Motor ...	48	8049	...	18	1	1	...
	Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Fishing ...	1	49	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise ...		504	91474	...	221	35	35	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise		696	244246	65	404	49	44	1

2.—*Character and Trade of the Port.*

TABLE B.

(a) *Passenger Traffic.*—There has been no passenger traffic during the year.

(b) *Cargo Traffic.*—The chief imports were Iron Ore; Manganese Ore; Timber; Spent Oxide; Coal; Bricks; Ganister; Cement; and Sand. The principal exports were Coal; Steel Rails, Sleepers and Billets; Pig Iron; Tar; Pitch; Creosote Oil; Lead Ore; and Sulphate of Ammonia.

The import figures for Ore of all descriptions has fallen by 76,000 tons from the quantity imported in 1937, or a decrease of 20%.

The exports show a decrease compared with the figures for 1937, with the exception of Coal, the figures for which are well above those for 1937.

Out of sixty arrivals from foreign (proper) with cargo during the year, 53 vessels came from Scheduled Infected Ports.

(c) *Foreign Ports with which the Port trades*:—

INWARDS FROM FOREIGN.

Country.	*Ports.*	*No. of Ships.*
Algeria.	Algiers	5
	Bona	20
	Les Falaises ...	1
Canada N.B.	Herring Cove ...	1
Denmark.	Kjoge	1
Egypt.	Abuzenima ...	2
France.	Brest	1
	Blaye	1
Holland.	Dordrecht ...	1
India.	Vizagapatam ...	5
Latvia.	Riga.	1
Norway.	Narvik	7
Sierra Leone.	Pepel	7
Tunisia.	La Goulette ...	10
Eire		129
		192

OUTWARDS TO FOREIGN.

Country.	*Ports.*	*No. of Ships.*
Belgium.	Antwerp	1
	Ghent	5
Canada.	Montreal	1
	St. John's N.B. ...	1
Danzig.	Danzig	1
Estonia.	Fallium	1
France.	Nantes	1
	Roche Maurice ...	1
Finland.	Helsingfors ...	1
Holland.	Rotterdam	2
Latvia.	Liban	2
	Riga	1
Norway.	Narvik	6
Spain.	Santander	1
	Huelva	1
Sweden.	Gothenburg ...	1
Sierra Leone.	Pepel	1
Tunisia.	La Goulette ...	1
U.S.A.	Hopewell	1
Eire		170
		200

3.—*Water Supply.*

Details of this service have been previously described. There is a plentiful and continuous supply of fresh water to meet all requirements. The supply was chemically and bacteriologically examined during the year and found satisfactory.

4.—*Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.*

The existing approved arrangements have continued to work smoothly, and I have to record my appreciation of the assistance rendered by H.M. Customs Officers to the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

During the year one vessel reported having had sickness during the voyage. I examined the patient (who was the Steward of the vessel) and found him recovering from an attack of malaria. Ten other reports of sickness were received, but fortunately none proved to be of an infectious character. The ailments were diagnosed as Influenza, Rheumatism, Bronchitis, Rupture, Venereal Disease, and Appendicitis.

A number of Venereal Disease Cases required treatment, and instruction cards were issued affording free treatment at the County Council Clinics at Whitehaven or Carlisle. Every endeavour is made to persuade the men to attend these Treatment Centres, but I am afraid the results of our endeavours are not encouraging.

Careful attention has again been given to the question of vermin on vessels, and whenever the slightest trace is discovered strict methods to rid the vessels of vermin are adopted under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. The majority of vessels carry a supply of some well known insecticide which is periodically used by the crew. Mattresses are most difficult to disinfest, and destruction by burning is recommended.

The Greek vessel "Alexandros" arrived during the year with a live sheep (in lamb) on board, having come from a prohibited country. This was a contravention of The Animals (Importation) Order, 1930, and the facts were reported to the Clerk of the Authority, but no proceedings were instituted owing to the special circumstances of the case.

5.—*Measures against Rodents.*

The absence of food stores on the Quay Side, and the nature of materials shipped, minimises the nuisance from the presence of rats. All vessels are carefully examined for the presence of rats, and in three instances the Masters of vessels were requested to put rat guards on the mooring ropes, as a matter of precaution.

Deratisation Certificates were examined, and in five instances were found to have expired, and notices were given to renew at the first available Approved Port.

During the year the Harbour and Dockside have been thoroughly inspected for the presence of rats. Some four hundred baits were laid, and only fifteen were not recovered, and so I consider the Dock fairly free from rodents.

6.—*Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.*

TABLE J.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British ...	... 373	—	47	12
Other Nations	... 31	—	2	2

During the year 55 informal notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector for various defects or other contraventions prejudicial to health. No statutory notices were served.

7.—*Food Inspection.*

No foodstuffs have been exported.

Fifty tons of potatoes were imported during November from Northern Ireland. This was the only consignment of food imported during the year, and was covered by a Certificate on Form M.P.3 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland.

8.—*General.*

During the year the Ministry of Health issued Circular 1670 requesting the attention of Port Health Officers to the various requirements embodied in the Board of Trade instructions regarding the survey of Master's and Crew spaces on board ship. Particular attention was required regarding personal hygiene, but owing to the condition and design of many vessels self respect and due regard to the cleanliness and upkeep of their quarters cannot be expected from the crew if facilities are not provided.

Such facilities are not provided if their quarters are so arranged and fitted as readily to harbour vermin; if no other place than their living rooms are available for storing their working clothes; if no encouragement is given them to change their underwear, because of lack of suitable arrangements for washing and drying their clothes or to wash themselves, except in their accommodation. Seafaring men have to endure trying conditions and I should like to see more rigid legislation introduced to enforce alterations and improvements to existing vessels, so as to render the seafaring man's lot more comfortable during his off time.

During the year the carcases of two sheep, two swans, and one porpoise were washed up on the foreshore, and were removed and destroyed.

The Harbour and Dock have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Again I must record my appreciation to the Harbour Master and H.M. Customs for their co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer to the Authority.